

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 04498 201058 Z

14

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 AGR-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-02 OMB-01 DODE-00

SR-02 ORM-03 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-02 PRS-01 RSR-01

/153 W

----- 004331

P R 201025 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4644

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4498

E. O 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF THAI EMBARGO ON RICE EXPORTS ON LAO RICE
SHORTAGE

1. ON JUNE 20 I CALLED ON SOUVANNA TO DISCUSS WITH HIM IMPENDING RICE SHORTAGE IN LAOS CAUSED BY THAI EMBARGO OF RICE EXPORTS. I HAD MADE SIMILAR PRESENTATION TO MINISTER OF FINANCE SISOUK ON JUNE 18.

2. I TOLD SOUVANNA THAT THAI CABINET DECISION PLACING EMBARGO ON EXPORT OF THAI RICE WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN LAOS SINCE USAID IS PROCURING ITS RICE IN THAILAND TO MEET CURRENT NEEDS OF LAO REFUGEES AND FAR/ FAN. I THEN BRIEFED HIM ON OUR EFFORTS AT TECHNICIAN LEVEL IN BANGKOK TO OBTAIN ASSURANCES OF CONTINUED SUPPLY WHICH SO FAR HAVE BEEN UNAVAILING. I REMINDED SOUVANNA THAT LATE LAST YEAR HE HAD RECEIVED ORAL ASSURANCES FROM MARSHAL THANOM FOR SALE TO LAOS OF UP TO 100,000 METRIC TONS OF THAI RICE FOR BOTH COMMERCIAL AND USG REQUIREMENTS. USAID NEEDS ASSURANCE OF DELIVERY OF 8,000 METRIC TONS UNDER EXISTING CONTRACT MADE WITH THAI PUBLIC WAREHOUSE ORGANIZATION (PWO) IN MAY. PWO SUBSEQUENTLY REFUSED AN ADDITIONAL REQUEST FOR 5,000
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 04498 201058 Z

METRIC TONS.

3. I ALSO MENTIONED THAT 60 TONS OF THAI RICE ARE BEING HELD ON THAI SIDE OF BORDER OPPOSITE SAVANNAKHET AWAITING EXPORT AUTHORIZATION FROM BANGKOK AND THAT RICE SITUATION IN SAVANNAKHET IS MORE SERIOUS THAN IN OTHER PARTS OF COUNTRY.

4. FINALLY, I MENTIONED THE REQUEST MADE TO RTG TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPORT FROM THAILAND TO LAOS OF 300 METRIC TONS OF RICE SEED WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN PROCURED BY USAID IN NORTHERN THAILAND BUT IS STILL AWAITING EXPORT PERMIT. THIS RICE IS URGENTLY NEEDED FOR PLANTING BY REFUGEES AT RELOCATION SITES. I ALSO INFORMED SOUVANNA THAT CAMBODIANS ARE PREPARING TO SEND A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION TO BANGKOK TO SEEK THE PURCHASE OF 10,000 METRIC TONS OF THAI RICE WHICH POINTS UP THE RICE SHORTAGE IN THE AREA.

5. I STRESSED THAT FURTHER RTG DELAY IN AUTHORIZING EXPORT OF THAI RICE TO LAOS WOULD AGGRAVATE RICE SHORTAGE AT A TIME WHEN THERE IS GROWING POLITICAL APPREHENSION IN LAOS OVER PROSPECTS OF EARLY FORMATION OF COALITION GOVERNMENT. I SUGGESTED TO SOUVANNA THAT HE ACT WITHOUT DELAY AND INSTRUCT HIS AMBASSADOR IN BANGKOK TO REQUEST THE RTG TO AUTHORIZE ON AN URGENT BASIS THE SALE OF RICE TO USAID AND GRANT PERMIT TO LAOS. I ALSO URGED HIM TO MAKE SIMILAR REPRESENTATION TO GENERAL DHEP IN LAOS IN HOPE THAT LATTER WOULD PASS ON SOUVANNA'S CONCERN DIRECTLY TO THANOM. SOUVANNA SAID HE WOULD DO THIS WITHOUT DELAY BUT ASKED THAT I ALSO RAISE MATTER WITH USG CHARGE IN BANGKOK TO SUPPORT RLG DEMARCHE WITH RTG AUTHORITIES.

6. I TELEPHONED CHARGE MASTERS IN BANGKOK THIS MORNING ON THIS MATTER AND AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR HIS WILLINGNESS TO SUPPORT OUR AND RLG'S EFFORTS TO GET RTG EMBARGO LIFTED FOR RICE EXPORTS TO LAOS.
DEAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI04498
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730626/aaaajpg.tel
Line Count: 101
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 980218
Subject: IMPACT OF THAI EMBARGO ON RICE
TAGS: EAID, LA
To: AID
BANGKOK
PHNOM PENH
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005